

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1407
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
TARIFF CHARGES
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether TRAI has allowed the fixed line operators in the telecom sector to reduce rates;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the impact thereof on the MTNL and BSNL;
- (c) whether tariffs charges of MTNL and BSNL are more than private operators;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the rates of MTNL and BSNL?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI , PRADHAN)

(a) & (b): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, vide 28th Amendment Order of Telecommunication Tariff Order notified on 5/11/2003, has forborne tariff for basic service (other than ISDN) except for rural fixed line service including WLL (Fixed). Under forbearance, the service providers can fix the tariff under intimation to TRAI. After the issue of the aforesaid order, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have not revised their tariff for fixed line services and their tariffs are already below the ceiling/level prescribed by TRAI with effect from 1.05.2003.

(c) & (d): The tariffs charged by all service providers vary depending upon the features of the various tariff packages offered by them to customers. Therefore, a direct comparison of tariff between service providers is not feasible.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.